

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087468
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 H-01 PM-05
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 L-03 NEA-10
NSCE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12 /081 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:BA
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
P:GMOOSE
S/P:PKREISBERG
H:GLANPHER
PM:RAERICSON
T:WMARCH
NEA:NVELIOTES
EUR:EMROWELL

-----130902 052022Z /47

O P 051933Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CD

SUBJEC: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: A) NIAMEY 827, B) NDJAMENA 858 (NOTAL),
C) 77 STATE 166506

1. ONCE AGAIN, WE HAVE REVIEWED THE WAYS IN WHICH WE
MIGHT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN KEEPING WITH THE
VICE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT TO CHADIAN VICE PRESIDENT
DJIME IN MID-JULY THAT WE WOULD HELP IN RESTORING CHAD'S
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY (REF C). SPECIFICALLY, WE HAVE
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TAKEN SOUNDINGS ON THE HILL REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF
A ONE TIME GRANT OF SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE IN FY
1978 TO HELP RELIEVE THE SEVERE STRAINS IMPOSED ON THE
NATIONAL
BUDGET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD BY THE LIBYAN
SUPPORTED INSURGENCY. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT HERE IS
STRONG OPPOSITION IN THE CONGRESS TO PROVIDING ANY FORM OF

GRANT ASSISTANCE TO CHAD THAT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE INSURGENCY. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE ANSWER ANY INQUIRIES FROM THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE ABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION POSED

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD BY LIBYAN OCCUPATION OF THE AOUZOU STRIP AND LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR THE ARMED REBELLION BEING CONDUCTED BY THE FROLINAT. WE BELIEVE THAT IN THE LONG RUN, A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION FOR THESE PROBLEMS CAN

ONLY BE FOUND THROUGH NEGOTIATION, BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA,

WITHIN THE OAU FRAMEWORK, OR BETWEEN THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE DISSIDENT ELEMENTS WITHIN CHAD. WE SUPPORT THE SEARCH FOR NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS AND IN PARTICULAR THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF RECONCILIATION WITH THE REBELS.

3. OUR RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE VICE PRESIDENT DJIME MADE DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JULY 1977, WAS PROMPT AND EXCEPTIONAL. ON SEPTEMBER 1, THE PRESIDENT MADE CHAD ELIGIBLE FOR FOREIGN MILITARY

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SALES. THIS WAS THE SECOND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR FMS MADE BY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. IT WAS MOST UNUSUAL, GIVEN THE FEW DIRECT INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN CHAD, AND WAS INTENDED TO MEET THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR HELP.

4. WE ALSO MADE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR BUDGETARY SUPPORT. WE ENCOUNTERED STRONG OPPOSITION IN THE CONGRESS TO THESE PROPOSALS, AND WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IT IS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE.

5. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INSUFFICIENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES TO PERMIT IT TO PURCHASE MILITARY EQUIPMENT THROUGH THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAM.

6. GIVEN THE PRACTICAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF EITHER GRANTS OR SALES FROM THE US, WE SUGGESTED THE ONLY COURSE THAT REMAINED, THAT THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT APPLY TO FRIENDLY

GOVERNMENTS FOR TRANSFER OF US ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT. FOR OUR PART, WE INFORMED THESE GOVERNMENTS OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO APPROVE TRANSFERS TO CHAD OF A WIDE RANGE OF US ORIGIN EQUIPMENT. WE ALSO URGED THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT TO APPLY TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS FOR FINANCING THAT MIGHT PERMIT IT TO PURCHASE THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.

7. IN THE COURSE OF THE PAST SIX MONTHS, THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT, EVEN WITH US SUPPORT, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANOTHER GOVERNMENT WILLING TO TRANSFER US EQUIP-

MENT NOW IN ITS INVENTORY TO CHAD UNDER TERMS SATISFACTORY TO THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT, OR TO PROVIDE FINANCING WITH WHICH TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT.
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8. THE US GOVERNMENT REGRETS ITS INABILITY TO PROVIDE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD. WE SHALL AGREE TO REASONABLE REQUESTS TO TRANSFER US-

ORIGIN EQUIPMENT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES.

9. AS THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT IS AWARE, OUR SUPPORT FOR CHAD'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES TO BE STRONG AND SUBSTANTIAL. THIS WILL CONTINUE.

10. WE PREFER THE CONTENT OF PARAS 2-9 BE CONVEYED ORALLY TO CHADIAN GOVERNMENT. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, AGREE TO PROVIDE IT IN WRITING IF PRESSED AND IF YOU BELIEVE SITUATION WARRANTS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY MARK C. EATON

APPROVED BY THOMAS W.M. SMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE 8874

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087468

FOL RPT STATE 087468 ACTION NDJAMENA INFO PARIS 5 APR 78 QUOTE

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
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Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Message ID: 7df6edb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Subject: EC: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD
TAGS: MASS, CD
To: NDJAMENA
Type: TE
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